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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
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## Draft report

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**Addendum**

# Programme questions

## Proposed revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

### Programme 24. Management and central support services

1. At its 15th meeting, on 12 June 1998, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 24, Management and central support services.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 24 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

#### Discussion

3. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed on management in the proposed revisions to programme 24. The view was expressed that the nomenclature of the Secretariat was an internal matter and should not have been reflected in the proposed revision to the medium-term plan. Doubts were expressed on the proposed revision of the title of the programme from "Administrative services" to "Management and central support services". It was pointed out that public administration was an important aspect of public policy and that, therefore, administration should be undertaken in conjunction with management. On that basis, the view was expressed that the current title of Department of Administration and Management should be retained. The view was expressed that for an intergovernmental organization like the United Nations, the administration is central to its

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effective and efficient functioning and, therefore, there was no reason to change the name of the Department of Administration and Management to the Department of Management. It was stated that the Department of Management is the nomenclature normally used in the private sector, and that it was dangerous to view the United Nations from the lenses of a corporate company. There were concerns expressed as to which department would now be responsible for administration. The view was expressed that there was need to review the decision in the future to rename the department. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the proposed revisions accurately reflected the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and that the new structure of the programme, as well as the Department, would contribute to better management in the Organization.

4. In connection with the proposed revision contained in paragraphs 24.2 and 24.7, it was stressed that the Secretariat, in seeking to achieve the objectives of the programme, should ensure that those objectives were achieved according to the guidelines established by the General Assembly and resolutions of legislative bodies and on the basis of existing rules and regulations. Accordingly, the related references should be added after each of the proposals.

5. The view was expressed that support should be given to the proposed new paragraph 24.5. The view was expressed that the delegation of authority of operational functions to programme managers would ensure that programme managers would have overall responsibility for the activities under their responsibility. It was emphasized, however, that such delegation should be accompanied by clear accountability; otherwise, compliance to General Assembly resolutions and existing rules and regulations would be endangered. The view was expressed that performance indicators, as well as the related follow-up actions, were important.

6. The view was expressed that the mandate for the establishment of the Management Policy Committee was questionable. Queries were also raised about how management reform would be carried out evenly across the Secretariat. It was expressed, in that context, that Secretariat reform should be fully in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

7. The view was expressed that the establishment of an Oversight Support Unit in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management was important. Some doubts were expressed, however, as to whether the location of the Unit should be in the Department of Management or in the Office of the Secretary-General.

8. In connection with the proposed revisions to paragraph 24.8 (new paragraph 24.12), it was pointed out that the proposed new paragraph 24.12 (b) reflected a major deviation from the approved medium-term plan, since the proposed revision would empower the Department of Management to decide on any appeal by staff members against an administrative decision or against disciplinary action, instead of the existing arrangement whereby it advises the Secretary-General on those matters. The view was expressed that the existing text of the medium-term plan as approved by the General Assembly should be maintained.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

**9. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 24, Management and central support services, subject to the following modifications:**

(a) *Replace* the first sentence of paragraph 24. 2 with the following:

"The Secretariat seeks to achieve those objectives, with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly, by:"

(b) In the first sentence of new paragraph 24.7, *after* cost-effectiveness *insert* and the relevant decisions of the General Assembly thereon;

(c) In new paragraph 24.8 (c), *after* communications and *insert* transparent;

(d) In paragraph 24.8 (d), *replace* lead *with* develop and at the end of the sentence *add* with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly;

(e) At the end of paragraph 24.8 (g), *add* with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly.

(f) *Retain* the existing text of subparagraph 24.8 (b) in the approved medium-term plan instead of the proposed new paragraph 24.12 (b).

10. The Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the revisions to programme 24 be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.